

success

knowledge

culture

# Leadership Through Education

opportunity

pride

A graduation cap and diploma are the central focus of the image. The cap is a dark red or maroon color, positioned in the upper left. The diploma is a white, rolled-up scroll, tied with a red ribbon, and lies diagonally across the lower half. A long, red tassel hangs from the cap, looping around the diploma. The background is a solid, vibrant green. The word "ASPIRA" is printed in large, bold, red letters at the bottom right, with a stylized red swoosh above the "A".

**ASPIRA**



Inspired by Dra. Antonia Pantoja to address the high dropout rates and poor educational achievement among Puerto Rican and other minority youth, **ASPIRA of Florida, Inc.** was founded on March 2, 1981 in Miami, Florida by a multi-ethnic group of educators and community leaders.



## ASPIRA of Florida Inc. Mission Statement

The overall purpose of ASPIRA of Florida is to foster the social advancement of Puerto Rican/Latino and other minority youth to pursue educational excellence through leadership development programs that emphasize commitment to the community.

## Our Vision

ASPIRA of Florida's vision is to advocate for greater educational opportunities for Puerto Rican/Latino and other minority youth throughout Florida. ASPIRA provides services for this target population as a direct response to its expressed needs. Pursuing this vision, in 1995 ASPIRA of Florida started a strategic geographic expansion process throughout Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach Counties involving local community leaders, parents, and students. ASPIRA of Florida commits to delivering quality services for our youth through community outreach and educational programs.



## What we do

ASPIRA of Florida has been effective in providing services to the South Florida region utilizing our service delivery model via the ASPIRA charter schools and community outreach programs. Services take place at the ASPIRA Youth Sanctuaries, educational safe havens, which house both our charter schools and outreach program offices.

Under the leadership of Raul A. Martinez, President/CEO and the Board of Directors, ASPIRA opened three charter middle schools between 1998-2001 in Miami-Dade County. In addition, ASPIRA operates Youth Leadership Development (YLD) Outreach programs in five geographical areas: North Miami, Greater Miami and the Beaches, South Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach.



In the ASPIRA Charter Schools, students benefit from a small



classroom environment, innovative instruction, dedicated teachers, parent involvement, and a commitment to serving the community.

The ASPIRA YLD Outreach Program develops the leadership capacity of youth by engaging them in weekly club meetings guided by a curriculum designed to develop cultural and self awareness, as well as critical thinking and social skills. This is known as the ASPIRA Process of awareness, analysis and action (A3).

## Youth Leadership Development

ASPIRA of Florida, Inc. is a community-based organization dedicated to youth leadership development. ASPIRA provides guidance, counseling and leadership development opportunities to youth (5-19 years of age). Services are conducted through the ASPIRA Club System and facilitated by an ASPIRA Advisor, a mentor and role model. Utilizing a peer support group, curriculum instruction includes an educational and skills development component as well as individual academic and personal advisement. In this setting, Aspirantes (ASPIRA Club members) learn the necessary skills to avoid teen pregnancy and the dangers of drug abuse. Moreover, they participate in college readiness activities, workforce development, and have access to community technology centers (CTC).












At the end of each program year, our youth receive recognition at the ASPIRA Youth Awards Ceremonies. To achieve systematic change, youth serve as a catalyst for family strengthening and empowerment. Parents are encouraged to participate in various ASPIRA sponsored activities including the Adult and Family Literacy Programs, family forums, parent training, and family picnics. In addition, ASPIRA has established night school education programs to obtain a GED, ESOL classes, Civics, and Adult Basic Education (ABE).

# ASPIRA of Florida Inc. ANNUAL REPORT 2003-2004

## REVENUES



	<b>Palm Beach County:</b> Children's Services Council, Local & DJJ	6%
	<b>Broward County:</b> Children's Services Council, Cities & DJJ	7%
	South Florida Workforce	2%
	M-DCPS Charter Schools	61%
	Miami-Dade County Depts & Local Funds	4%
	Private Contributions-Club Fundraising	5%
	United Way Miami-Dade	3%
	Federal Funding - ETS, Gear - Up and CTC	8%
	State Funding - Florida Department of Education and Drug Free Communities	10%

## PROGRAM IMPACT & OUTCOMES





Intense individual and group counseling activities contributed to 90% of the YLD Club participants (2,022) staying in school. Of the 244 graduating seniors, 70% enrolled into post-secondary institutions. During this year, 497 adults attended night school for GED, ESOL, family literacy and adult basic education, while 197 parents attended family empowerment & advocacy training.

ASPIRA of Florida's educational programs had a great impact on approximately 780 students in its three charter schools. In 2003-04, our schools received a grade of C, had a daily attendance of 94%, 95% parent participation, and were among the top 10 schools to demonstrate an average 76% improvement for students in the lowest 25% FCAT from the prior year. ASPIRA's Charter Schools are the top schools in their areas as compared to schools with similar populations. In the [Miami Herald](#) article dated June 19, 2004, ASPIRA South and Eugenio Maria De Hostos Charter Schools are highlighted, ***"Only three of the Miami-Dade's 63 middle schools improved their state-issued school grade this year and two of them are privately operated charter schools. ASPIRA operates both of the charter middles that improved in this year's grades, and specializes in the low-scoring student."***

Achieving excellence is a continuous process that includes intensive remedial/advance academic programs and emphasizes leadership through education, multiculturalism, tolerance and community involvement.

## EXPENSES



	YLD/Outreach Division - Student Activities, field trips, club meetings, conferences	32%
	Charter School Programs - Teachers, school supplies, after school tutoring, teaching materials	62%
	Fundraiser and General Solicitations	1%
	Management and General - Program support Services, MIS, clerical staff, accounting	5%

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Audited As of: June 30, 2004

### ASSETS

Current Assets:	\$ 3,256,521
Fixed Assets, Net	\$ 1,612,846
Deposits:	\$ 45,718
<b>Total Assets:</b>	<b>\$ 4,915,085</b>

### LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Accounts Payable:	\$ 40,800
Compensated Absences:	\$ 126,330
Long Term Debt	\$ 508,186
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$ 675,316</b>
Net Assets - Unrestricted:	\$ 3,478,384
Net Assets - Temp Restricted:	\$ 761,385
<b>Total Net Assets:</b>	<b>\$ 4,239,769</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets:</b>	<b>\$ 4,915,085</b>

## STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

Audited for the Year Ending: June 30, 2004

### REVENUES, GRANTS AND OTHER SUPPORT

Private Contributions:	\$ 212,013
Government grants	\$ 3,251,286
Local - FTE	\$ 3,995,664
United Way:	\$ 185,516
Interest and other income:	\$ 33,113
<b>Total public support, revenues and reclassifications:</b>	<b>\$ 7,677,592</b>

### EXPENSES

Dropout Prevention, Counseling, College Readiness and Youth Leadership Development Outreach Services:	
Miami Dade County	\$ 1,216,499
Broward County	\$ 514,989
Palm Beach County	\$ 468,150
Charter Schools	\$ 4,367,756
Total Program Services	\$ 6,567,394
General and Administration	\$ 293,273
Fundraising	\$ 86,578
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 6,947,425</b>
<b>CHANGES IN NET ASSETS:</b>	<b>\$ 730,167</b>
<b>NET ASSETS, BEGINNING:</b>	<b>\$ 3,509,602</b>
<b>NET ASSETS, ENDING:</b>	<b>\$ 4,239,769</b>

Upon request a copy of the audited financial statements may be obtained at the ASPIRA Program Corporate Offices, 3650 N. Miami Ave., Miami, Florida 33127  
Phone: 305-576-8474  
Fax: 305-576-6217

HOME VISITS, PARENT/TEACHER MTGS

COLLEGE, CAREERS & FINANCIAL AID

TUTORING & AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

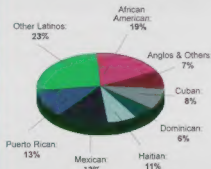
MENTORING SESSIONS

ONE-TO-ONE COUNSELING

## OUTPUTS

Total Caseload = 3,496

Client Ethnicity



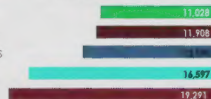
### GROUP COUNSELING

Total Sessions = 5,168

TYPE OF GROUP SESSION	NUMBER OF SESSIONS	ATTENDANCE
Club Meetings	2,387	40,917
Workshops	2,130	33,415
Sm Grp Counseling	389	2,580
Conferences	72	3,652
Educational Trips	104	2,068
Recreational Trips	86	3,033
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5,168</b>	<b>85,685</b>

### INDIVIDUAL COUNSELING

Total Sessions = 74,829



Total Counseling Performed: 37,998 Hours +  
2,831 Community Service Engagement Activities

## A message from Raúl A. Martínez, M.Ed.

**President and Chief Executive Officer,  
ASPIRA of Florida, Inc.**

I am pleased to report that program year 2003-2004 has been highly successful due to the dedication of staff, parents, Board and Aspirantes.

### **ASPIRA North**

This is the center of ASPIRA's college bound activities in Miami-Dade County. With a grant from the US Department of Education, the Educational Talent Search program provided dropout prevention and college readiness activities to 851 middle and senior high students in 12 Miami-Dade Public Schools. To assist students with their college aspirations, ASPIRA hosted the College Summit, which helped students write applications for college admissions. The ASPIRA SAT Marathon prepared juniors and seniors for the SAT exam and the FASFA Retreat helped students apply for financial aid. Students visited colleges and universities throughout the State of Florida. North Miami CDBG funds were used for high-risk youth.

### **ASPIRA Wynwood and the Beaches**

In the fourth year of the Alliance Stay in School and Neighborhood Empowerment Programs, ASPIRA continued to provide dropout prevention, career preparation, and tutoring services to high risk youth in middle and senior high schools located in Miami and Miami Beach. Stay in School services were also funded by the South Florida Workforce. ASPIRA's Increase the Peace Week, a community response to youth violence, took place both in Miami and Miami Beach. The United Automobile Insurance Company sponsored ASPIRA's Career Fair, "Keys to Catching your Dreams," for 150 Aspirantes. In conjunction with the University of Miami Non-Violence Project, our students in Miami painted murals to reflect their multicultural heritage. To honor Roberto Clemente, ASPIRA sponsored a Candlelight Vigil and basketball tournament for the Wynwood community at Roberto Clemente Park.

### **ASPIRA South**

The ASPIRA Youth Leadership Programs in Homestead/South Dade focused on dropout prevention and substance abuse education at the ASPIRA South Charter School, Campbell Drive Middle, and the South Dade and Redland Migrant Camps. In partnership with the Miami-Dade County Public Schools, funding from the Governor's Literacy Initiative, the Florida

Department of Education, the U.S. Department of Education, and the Peacock Foundation, ASPIRA offered technology driven adult education and family literacy programs at the Antonia Pantoja Adult Education Night School, located at ASPIRA South. The Florida International University GEAR UP program provided counseling, tutoring, homework assistance and computer training to students at ASPIRA South Charter, Homestead Middle, and South Dade Senior. ASPIRA South hosted two Awards ceremonies at the Keys Gate Country Club, one for youth participants and the other for adult learners.

### **ASPIRA Broward**

Leadership, prevention and family enrichment services continued to be provided through fifteen clubs in eight schools and community centers in South Broward. Program initiatives included an educational component with an emphasis on post-secondary education and academic excellence. Homework assistance and tutoring were facilitated at a Power Up Computer lab, a collaboration with the Miramar Senior Center and Volunteer Florida. Our after school program, funded by the Children's Services Council, successfully provided homework assistance, tutoring, social skills and physical fitness to students attending Perry Middle School. United Way of Broward and the Sun Sentinel continued as strategic partners. ASPIRANTES developed volunteer projects and forums on prevention topics that served to mobilize the community as well as to encourage parental involvement. At the ASPIRA Youth Leadership Awards Ceremony, \$14,000 for college scholarships were distributed to participating students.

### **ASPIRA Palm Beach**

The Youth Leadership Program served youth within ten schools throughout Palm Beach County, focusing on leadership building and dropout prevention. ASPIRANTES engaged in community service projects including Sunfest Youth Park Monitors, Palm Beach County Youth Court Jurors, LatinFest, Habitat for Humanity, and Special Olympics Summer Games. ACF officers created and implemented the ASPIRA Peer Pressure Awareness Project that aimed to educate ASPIRANTES about resisting negative peer pressure. In partnership with Palm Beach Community College, the Youth Summer Scholar Program provided an academic summer initiative to 30 low-income middle school students. The Family Empowerment Program served over 100 families by providing workshops focusing on parenting skills, communication with children, effective discipline, and career awareness. The Parent Educating Parent program trained other parents to be leaders.

## LOCATIONS

**Corporate Program Offices**  
**ASPIRA of Florida, Inc.**  
3650 N. Miami Avenue  
Miami, Florida 33127

### MIDDLE SCHOOLS:

ASPIRA Charter School North  
13300 Memorial Highway  
North Miami, Florida 33161

ASPIRA Charter School South  
14112 S.W. 288 Street  
Leisure City, Florida 33033

Eugenio Maria De Hostos  
Charter School  
1N.E. 19 Street  
Miami, Florida 33136

**ASPIRA Palm Beach Division**  
P.O. Box 19908  
West Palm Beach, Florida 33416

**ASPIRA Broward Division**  
Miramar Civic Center  
6920 S.W. 35 Street  
Miramar, Florida 33023

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ASPIRA of Florida, Inc. has continued to develop and promote educational reform through innovative concepts in the development of charter schools, pre-college awareness programs and prevention / intervention services.

ASPIRA is now equipped to introduce a new cycle of its business plan. In the upcoming years, ASPIRA will pursue a strategic plan that will continue to meet the educational and developmental needs of youth and maintain or increase current levels of services.

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Vice President, YMCA Greater Miami

### Immediate Past Chair

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Memorial Regional Hospital

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Jose M. Iglesias, CPA  
Verdeja & Gravier CPA's

### Secretary

Kim McCray, President  
McCray & Associates

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Team Metro, Miami Dade County

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Deborah Beriro, Realtor  
CitilProperties, Palm Beach County

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Broward Alliance

Keith Harrell Lopez,  
American Airlines

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Broward Community College

Kelly Rodriguez, National Student Representative  
Student, Florida State University

Joshua Padilla, ACFF Vice-President  
Student, North Miami Senior High School

### ProBono

Sean Santini, Attorney At Large  
Greenberg Traurig & Hoffman

Tel: (305) 576-8494 Fax: (305) 576-6217  
[www.aspira.org](http://www.aspira.org)  
<http://fl.aspira.org>



Florida Dept. of  
Children & Families  
Districts 10 & 11



Miami Dade - County  
Public Schools



United Way Miami-Dade  
Broward Counties

**Sun-Sentinel**

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